

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Spiegel et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,159,149). In response, Applicants amended independent claims 1 and 12-14 to include steps of extracting reference information and blocking the communication packet, and respectfully traverse the rejection based on these amendments.

Claims 1 and 12-13 now include the step of extracting reference information for identifying a communication packet to be blocked from a plurality of communication packets transmitted in a communication upon it being judged at the judging that the communication is executed by the worm. Claims 1 and 12-13 further call for blocking the communication packet that is transmitted between the predetermined network segment and on areas outside of the predetermined network segment based on the reference information extracted at the extracting step.

Claim 14 calls for the reference information extracting unit to extract the reference information, and that the judging is done by the judging unit. Claim 14 also calls for a blocking unit to block the communication packet, and that the extracting is to be done by the reference information extracting unit. Applicants respectfully submit that Spiegel fails to disclose or suggest the features now recited in amended claims 1 and 12-14.

More specifically, Spiegel fails to disclose (or suggest) extracting reference information for identifying a communication packet to be blocked from a plurality of

communication packets transmitted in the communication upon it being judged at the judging step that the communication is executed by a worm, and blocking the communication packet based on the reference information extracted at the extracting step. Accordingly, the present invention can block only a communication packet due to a worm infection. Support for the process of extracting the reference information can be found in Applicant's specification at page 21, lines 2-14, and page 24, lines 8-21. Support for the process of blocking a communication packet based on the reference information can be found in Applicant's specification at page 29, line 14 to page 30, line 23.

Unlike the present invention, Spiegel merely discloses that when an analysis module declares a worm, a response module alerts a user system administrator and terminates the infected process. Spiegel terminates a network access of the network device that is executing the infected process, and also terminates the network access of the infected network device. (See col. 7, lines 42-58 of Spiegel). Spiegel fails to disclose or suggest the above-described features of extracting reference information and blocking the communication packet. Therefore, withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection of claims 1-20 is respectfully requested.

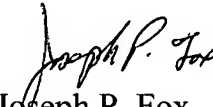
New claims 21-40 are added for consideration, and are considered allowable based on the features recited in these claims and also for the reasons recited above. Applicants earnestly solicits the allowance of new claims 21-40.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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